

Pick yourself up with a home equity line and pay off your bills and taxes



Get out from under! By consolidating your bills as well as paying your taxes with a Bankoh Equity FlexLine, you only make one easy monthly payment instead of many.

- No points.
- Save on taxes. Ask your tax advisor.
- Have up to three fixed rate loans.
- No closing costs.

Mar. 1, 1995

Sovereignty vote jeopardized?

Budget crisis puts education funds on plebiscite in limbo

By Mark Matsunaga
Advertiser Staff Writer

Hawaiian Sovereignty Elections Council members want Gov. Ben Cayetano to release \$800,000 in operating funds for a voter registration and education campaign.

"We're ready to jump ahead, and we've got everybody there that's interested, and we can't really move because I can't provide all of the necessary

materials," council Chairman Sol Kahohalahala said yesterday at a news conference on the Iolani Palace grounds.

Unless the money is freed soon, he said, the council won't be able to adequately educate Hawaiians in time for the plebiscite it plans to hold later this year.



Kahohalahala said the state in 1993 to shepherd the creation of a Hawaiian sovereign government. The plebiscite would be done by mail in

November and December, asking Hawaiians to vote yes or no on the question: "Shall the Hawaiian people elect delegates to propose a native Hawaiian government?"

A promotional TV spot that aired the past two weeks has drawn more than 1,000 phone calls from interested Hawaiians, said Lulani McKenzie, council executive director.

Kahohalahala said Hawaiian organizations have inquired about getting involved. But the lack of money means there aren't even brochures to hand out, he said.

Cayetano's office responded with this statement: "Throughout the beginning of the administration, everyone has

been going through a review of their expenditures, and it includes the Hawaiian Sovereignty Elections Council. Legislative expenditures, theirs will be given a very close scrutiny.

"A decision has not yet been made on the release of funds and will not be made because of posturing by the conference. Rather, the decision will be based on an analysis of all the facts, including the release of funds for the convention of delegates who will be elected through the plebiscite, which was estimated at \$12 million," said Cayetano spokeswoman Kathleen Ika-Markrich.

McKenzie said, however, the \$12 million represents an estimate of everything the council might spend in the creation until a Hawaiian government is established.

The big cost would be the constitutional convention, she said, and that will happen only if the plebiscite, if a majority votes yes.

"All we're saying is we want a go or no-go," she said. "We hold the plebiscite and stop right here?"

Cayetano's freeze applies to the current year that were budgeted and appropriated, she said.

The council also is asking for \$850,000 for the budget that starts July 1, to allow it to conduct the plebiscite. The request is before the state Legislature, which already eliminated a \$2.2 million for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

House committee approves bill to make parents pay for kids' graffiti

By William Kresnak
Advertiser Capitol Bureau

If kids spray, their parents will pay.

That's the message of an anti-graffiti bill approved yesterday by the state House Judiciary Committee.

The bill, which now goes to the full House for a vote and would then be sent to the Senate, spells out that the child and parents can be held responsible for graffiti, and that the courts may order restitution in the form of money or work, or both.

"I feel the parents must be held accountable for graffiti," said Judiciary Chairman Terrance Tom in pushing for the bill's approval. "Parents can't just say they didn't know where the kid was."



The committee also approved a bill to lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult.

Under current law, Family Court can't waive its jurisdiction of a minor and send the

case to adult Circuit Court unless the defendant is at least 16 years old.

The bill allows Family Court to waive jurisdiction for juveniles 14 or older who seriously injure someone, or are accused of a third felony.

The proposal also would allow Family Court to waive jurisdiction for any minor accused of murder.

Tom said he "won't stand" for 13-year-olds committing crimes like murder or rape knowing they won't face long jail terms under the Family Court system.